

BOCES INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER

◆ January 2012 ◆

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Expanding the Circle

Welcome to the first *official* BOCES Instructional Technology Newsletter. This newsletter started out in one program but the expansion to all programs is only logical! Instructional technology is being utilized in a variety of beneficial ways throughout the organization. Being that everyone is so spread out and time is scarce, it's near impossible to get-together and discuss valuable resources and ideas. It is hopeful that this newsletter will help to spark ideas and open up a line of communication about instructional technology throughout the organization. If there is something you would like to see included in the newsletter, please contact the point person in your program...

Career and Tech – Sharlene Bass
Pines Bridge – Michele Smail
Building A – Judy Ashby

Fox Meadow – Catherine Armisto
Walden – Joe Spatola
IT – Diane Dursi

"I think this is the start of something really big. Sometimes the first step is the hardest one, and we've just taken it." [Steve Jobs, 1955]



Newsletters

Dec 2010 – Dec 2011

Click [here](#) to check out previous newsletters.

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January's Theme: Test Preparation/Study Skills



Barron's Regents Exam App *Richie Guaragna*

App Features:

- Two mini-tests, each containing a set of 25 multiple-choice questions
- One actual full-length Regents exam
- Answers and Explanations that provide the correct responses and explanations of why other choices are incorrect (mini-test questions are reused in the full-length exam)
- A raw score at end of the full-length exam
- A status bar at top that helps you track your progress

Live Binder Update

There is a new section in the Live Binder for Test Prep Resources. Please check out some of the resources that your colleagues have found useful. If you have any resources you'd like to contribute to the Live Binder, you can submit them via this [Test Prep Resources Form](#).

[BOCES Instructional Technology Live Binder](#)

Password: BOCES

BOCES Instructional Technology - Web Resources

Binder Author: [carmisto](#) | Updated: 01-05-12 | [Details](#)

Vocabulary Resources

Writing Resources

Regents/Test Prep

Regents Review Live

Spanish Regents Review

Osweg

R

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Instructional Technology Workshops at Career and Tech

Christian Brunelli



In a simpler time, instructional technology was chalk and a blackboard, but the classroom, and the world, have gone digital. For many teachers, the presence of technology in the classroom can be infuriating – such as the continuous texting “itch” students scratch on tablets or smartphones – or frustrating – such as unresponsive or uncooperative computers, projectors and the like. The latest generation of digital technologies, known collectively as Web 2.0, promise to enrich lessons and empower students while making teachers lives easier.

Last October and November, the Tech Center held a series of instructional technology workshops to familiarize staff with various Web 2.0 programs and applications. Led by Christian Brunelli, an English and Social Studies Teacher at the Tech Center, instructors explored a variety of different programs and platforms including Wikis, Voicethreads, Screenr, Google Docs, Internet Radio (BlogTalkRadio) and classroom Blogs.

While most teachers are familiar with Wikipedia, a collective online encyclopedia, fewer are aware of free wikis for classroom and educational use, provided by sites such as wikispaces.com. Wikis allow a variety of individuals to contribute content, allowing teachers and students to work collaboratively on projects from a distance. However, they are also a flexible and versatile platform to set up class websites, post handouts, notes, and other materials, embed videos and other “widgets,” or even provide comments and feedback on student on-line work. It can also be used to temporarily store files, such as presentations, that can be accessed on the internet without a password. Its intuitive interface allows everyone to create a website to their needs without any background in web design.

Google Docs is Google’s version of live.com. It provides individuals with Sky or Cloud drives to create and store documents on the web. However, it gives teachers another function: online assessments. Using forms in Google Docs, they can create multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions that will automatically forward the results to a spread sheet.

In the last session, the workshop demonstrated how to set up an internet radio channel, complete with live call-in (and call-out) features that allow students to create broadcasts for projects, promote their class, or communicate with students and parents. The livestream is automatically converted into podcasts that can be viewed on-demand.

In February and March of 2012, the workshops will continue, but will be offered at two different after-class sessions – Tuesday and Thursday – per week. Topics will include Prezi, a web-based alternative to PowerPoint, Spreecast, a program that allows individuals to create “diavlogs” (video dialogues), and Blue Stacks, a program that allows teachers to adapt tactile Android programs used on tablets and phones for Smartboards.

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A Fun Find from Pines Bridge

Michele Smail

[Kideo](#) is a great website where you can take digital still pictures of yourself or your students and animate them. The students can star in videos such as Dora the Explorer, Spiderman, The Care Bears, and more. It takes only a few minutes and is well worth it. They will get a kick out of seeing themselves on the big screen. On the right, is a screen shot of the Dora the Explorer video.



Walden Instructional Technology Committee

Joe Spatola

Walden has followed the success of Fox Meadow and formed its own Instructional Technology Committee. Comprised of representatives from the elementary school and junior high as well as related service providers, the Walden Tech Committee has identified and begun working on a series of goals for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year. These goals include: a technology inventory of the building, a technology needs assessment, a technology survey of staff, the implementation of needs-based SMARTBoard training for staff, and the rollout of Microsoft Live@Edu. Additionally, the committee is always looking for new members and anybody in the Walden community is encouraged to join us.

February/March Theme:

Instructional Motivators

If you use (or find) any Web tools that get students motivated to learn, please submit them using this [form](#). Not sure if the site is exactly what we are looking for? Submit it anyway!

Upcoming Instructional Technology Meetings

Program	Date/Time	Location
Career and Tech	TBD	TBD
Fox Meadow	February 8 th @ 2:05	Fox Meadow – Bldg 4
Pines Bridge	January 30 th @ 2:30	Pines Bridge Conference Room
Walden	January 24 th @ 2:30	Walden – Room 203
BOCES	February 13 th @ 2:30	Bldg A - East Conference Room